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We Are...Marshall, June 9, 2006

Office of Marshall University Communications

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Arissa Prichard

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about his many accomplishments. I am so lucky to have had them as parents. I have so much admiration for both of them."

It was her mother's influence that led her to one her joys, music, particularly playing the piano. "I took lessons for seven years. Once I started my mother told me I wouldn't quit," she remembers. "I used to walk or bike to the teacher's house. The lessons cost 75 cents. Even when I was just seven, it was safe for me to walk then. I can't imagine my grandchildren doing something like that."

And it was to make her parents proud that she worked so hard to graduate number one in her high school class.

"My desire to be first in the class was a thirst for knowledge but it was also to make my mother happy. She had such a hard life and she deserved someone to make her proud. She was so pleased with what I accomplished."

Another passion is running; it's her favorite thing to do for exercise. She started running 15 years ago and she's kept at it, logging three miles at least three days a week.

She's modest about her running, however. "I'm not a great runner but it helps relieve stress and it's relaxing. I run on my lunch break. Sometimes I use the fitness room and the track. We have a farm in Olive Hill, Ky., where we spend a lot of weekends. We hike and bike a lot, that's what we really like to do. Recently we've dug a pond and we want to get it in shape so the grandkids can enjoy it."

In fact, the Prichards also have built a rustic track on which they can run and bike. "I love the outdoors and all that exercise. Besides, it enables you to eat more," she says with a hearty laugh.

Although the farm is a peaceful retreat, it's really a working farm. Her husband, William, for example, raises and sells hay. But its main purpose still is to provide a pleasant country retreat for this active and energetic family.

Another strong interest for Prichard is reading, particularly studying the Bible. "I love to read about the creation, that's a special topic of learning that interests me. I like to think about the universe, it such a huge subject and there is so much curiosity about how things began. I think the debate about creation is healthy."

As Prichard looks back at her almost 28 years at Marshall, it's with a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. Teamwork has kept her office running smoothing through the years, she maintains.

"It's teamwork that's important, treating everyone respectfully and not being condescending," she says. "The best way to get productivity is to treat people by the golden rule. I've never met anyone I couldn't work with. I always try to make people feel comfortable and to feel free to ask questions. I always tell everyone there are no bad questions. I've had a lot of GA's and they're such great people. I've kept in touch with many of them."

If she has one regret about her job it's that she doesn't have much contact with students. The outgoing Prichard misses that. "I love my job; it's a comfortable setting and I've had terrific supervisors and co-workers. But we're basically involved in number games so we don't get a lot of visitors to our office. I enjoy the work and the people I deal with so that makes up for it."

An unabashed optimist, she always looks for the sunny side of things. "It's a pleasure to be on earth, it's an opportunity to live."

Movie Extra: Kim Fields

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colleagues and I got to watch and work closely with McG, Rich and of course, Matthew McConaughey, for the next several hours.

What I learned during that time was the most valuable experience of the day. First, movie making is not easy. It is a long, hard and sometimes grueling process, taking hours and hours to shoot a scene from every angle and perspective. Second, I learned that the directors, actors and crew all work incredibly hard. I was impressed with the patience, kindness and sense of humor displayed by director McG and his first assistant director Rich, all while keeping the actors, extras and crew focused on the task at hand. Equally impressive was the high level of focus and professionalism of Matthew McConaughey, who stayed in character for hours at a time.

The third and most important thing I learned was that every person who was working on the movie, whether they were directors, actors, crew or extras, was – just like me – thrilled to be working on "We Are Marshall," and grateful for an opportunity to be a part of the process. So many thanks from the woman in the petal curls on the front row to McG, Rich, Matthew McConaughey, Mr. P and his wonderful assistant from Wilmington, and countless others who gave me and all the extras in this film a once in a lifetime experience making a very special movie. I look forward to the premiere of "We Are Marshall," where I hope to thank you in person.

Acting Fame: Kemp Winfree

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friend with blue hair had disappeared. So I neatly placed my vintage suit on a hanger with my shirt and tie, and attached a tag with my new movie identity – Extra #87 – attached to it and placed it on the table by the trailer where I was certain no one could miss seeing it (a mistake on my part). As it started to rain lightly, I proceeded to try to find my car which had been moved several blocks away by a fellow with tattoos all over his arms.

Once inside the Dodge Intrepid (an appropriate name after this experience), I headed home to friends and family who couldn't wait to hear about my "movie experience." No one believed me.

Later that night Samantha from the Casting Dept. called again to tell me where to report for the Friday filming, scenes 82 and 85. I explained to her about the situation with the beard and she put me on hold for a few minutes. After getting back on the line she said they liked the beard look and for me to report at 8:30 a.m. Friday and to call about 8 a.m.. I guess she consulted the photo of me in costume taken previously. I thought the call was to remind them to talk to the appropriate person about not cutting the beard. (Again, mistake on my part.) As Ron Childress and I were driving to Huntington, I called them and as we passed the Huntington Mall the casting director informed me that I didn't need to show up because they didn't want any facial hair in Friday's scene either, so we would obviously be having the beard discussions again. Fired on the way to work! And work as a volunteer, at that. That's a first for me.

In Huntington I gave Ron my car and I walked to the bookstore where I called Kathy Zimmerman to come pick me up. At this point, I thought my contact with the movie was over, but what do I know? On Saturday about 10 p.m., I received a call from Chad, the registering and shepherding person. He informed me that I needed to return the vintage suit, which I had left for my blue-haired friend on Thursday in the Wardrobe trailer. I explained everything to him and he said he would look into it. As of this writing, I haven't heard anything from him.

Are there any lessons in this experience? I expect there are, but I am likely unable to figure them out. One thing, however, that strikes me is that I am more sympathetic to Janet Jackson's claim of "wardrobe malfunction" than I had previously been.

We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JUNE 9, 2006

Undergraduate Research Gets Boost from Challenge Fund

Marshall University has received funding from West Virginia's Research Challenge Fund to advance research in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the support of undergraduate research.

Smith Keynotes at D.C. Judicial Conference

Dr. Jean Edward Smith, the first John Marshall Professor of Political Science at Marshall, and a John Deaver Drinko Distinguished Fellow, gave the keynote address to the annual Judicial conference of the District of Columbia Federal Circuit June 8. Smith spoke on the judicial legacy of John Marshall, of whom he wrote the highly acclaimed biography, "John Marshall: Definer of a Nation."

The District of Columbia Circuit includes all federal magistrates, district court and appellate judges in Washington, D.C. plus the Supreme Court alumni of the D.C. circuit. Approximately 700 members of the District of Columbia federal bar attended the three-day conference.

"I always look forward to doing these kinds of talks," Smith said prior to his address. "This one will be interesting because we have a new chief justice in John Roberts."

Smith joined the Marshall faculty in the fall of 1999. He first visited campus in October 1997 when he delivered two presentations based on his biography of John

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'Tom Foolery' Debuts June 15

Tickets to "Tom Foolery," a Marshall University Theatre presentation featuring the words and music of famed satirical songwriter Tom Lehrer, have gone on sale. They are available in the theater department box office in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center at \$7 for Marshall faculty/staff, \$5 for Marshall Theatre season patrons, \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 17 and under.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. daily June 15-17 and 21-23 in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. An additional performance is scheduled June 24 at the Clay Center in Charleston as part of the FestivALL Charleston Celebration.

"In concerts, television appearances and a series of now-classic recordings, the Harvard-educated math professor delighted millions of fans during the 1950s and '60s with his dry, cynical but good-humored attacks on the A-bomb, racism, pollution, pornography, the military, the Boy Scouts and, of course, mathematics," Music Theatre International writes of Lehrer. "Rediscover the man and songs that have delighted and skewered the world for over 40 years."

For more information, call ext. 62787.

Dr. Michael Norton, professor of Chemistry, said the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program specifically funds 13 undergraduate students who receive stipends totaling \$4,000 each and supplies for their research. SURE supports Marshall undergraduate researchers for a 10-week period, uninterrupted by classes, during the summer.

The SURE program, now in its second year, covers a wide array of topics and is directed by Norton. This year's program began May 22 and ends July 28. The program enables these researchers to gain knowledge and valuable experience in research of their choice and a head start in building their scientific careers.

Betty Cook Named Employee of the Month

Betty Cook, Administrative Assistant in the College of Liberal Arts, has been named the Marshall University Employee of the Month for May, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

A Marshall employee for 14 years, she was nominated by Lu Ann South, Administrative Secretary Senior in Communication Studies.

In her nomination South wrote, "During my ten years of working with her as an Administrative Secretary Senior to her current position as Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Betty has always presented herself in a professional manner. Dedicated, reliable, detail oriented are just a few of her outstanding attributes. Her high level of dedication was shown during the past few weeks. Throughout the time of the loss of her

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Betty Cook (left) received the Employee of the Month plaque from President Kopp.

To Be or Not to Be A Movie Extra

What I learned While Working as an Extra

By Kim Fields (Marshall alumna)

On April 19, 2006, I had the rare privilege and good fortune of getting to work as an extra in "We Are Marshall," the movie about the 1970 plane crash that killed 75 people, including most of Marshall University's football team, coaching staff, many of its supporters, and the plane crew. It was a once in a lifetime experience that was especially meaningful to me because I attended Marshall University from 1979 to 1983. Before my memory of the day fades, including the way I felt in 1970s makeup, clothing and an unforgettable hairstyle, I want to tell you about it.

It was a long, hard day on the set – almost 17 hours from the time the extras arrived at the parking lot at 4:30 a.m. until the final "wrap" after 9:00 p.m. We started the day by taking a bus to wardrobe, hair and makeup. After checking in, I was then transformed from a mother of ten-year-old twins to someone straight out of the 1970s. I had lots of teased hair, lots and lots of eyeliner and green eye shadow, and a polyester knit dress that I will never forget. I looked in the mirror and saw my mother just as she had looked in the early '70s. It took me by surprise, making me feel as though she was with me for the rest of the day.

Now that I had my new look, it was time to take my place with the other extras and get to work as "background" for the movie. In the first scene, the extras were townspeople walking to the Young Thundering Herd's first home game against Xavier. The scene was filmed in a neighborhood on Merrill Avenue, complete with vintage cars and people tailgating before the game at picnic tables in the park. Although 300 people were in the scene, McG, the director of the movie, his first assistant director, Rich, along with a host of others in the crew got everyone into position and filmed the scene in a little over two hours. What amazed me was how quickly and quietly the actors, directors, crew and extras coordinated to make the scene come together. I hope it was, at least in part, because the extras were willing to do whatever it took to help get the scene right. We were putty in their hands.

The second scene was the press conference where Coach Jack Lengyel, played by Matthew McConaughey, is introduced as the new head coach of Marshall University's football team. I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of a few women in the male-dominated press corps, thanks to a "petal curl" hairstyle created by hair wizard Mr. P and his assistant from Wilmington, N.C. From my vantage point on the front row, my

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My Brush with Acting Fame

By Kemp Winfree (Marshall Vice President)

After being told by several people that I resembled Dennis Hopper and actually being mistaken for him twice, I thought that the request to volunteer for a scene in the *We Are Marshall* movie might just be my ticket to the big time. What follows is my chronicle of the events that unfolded after receiving "the call" from Samantha in Casting to show up at Wardrobe on Wednesday, April 5.

I am sharing this with you since several of you who were at the filming have asked about my participation as have those who didn't experience the filming. I showed up on Wednesday to an old warehouse for a "fitting." It gave me an opportunity to undress in a large room separated only by a checked tablecloth draped over a steel pole from two young women, one of whom had blue hair and a lip and nose piercing. I hadn't undressed in public since being drafted in 1968.

I was fitted for a blue suit from a collection of thousands of used garments. They took a photo of me in costume for some reason. Since I was to be a faculty member, I was told the sport jacket and trousers I was wearing would be suitable for the Friday scenes, but the suit would be for scene 71A, the funeral scene.

On Thursday, April 6 I found my way to Norwood Avenue Church of Christ, which was the staging area for the funeral scenes which were done across the road at the Spring Hill Cemetery. I checked in at noon and was advised to sit and wait for the rest of the extras who were to be in scene 71A. People trickled in for about an hour.

Finally, I was instructed to go to the wardrobe trailer and get my clothing. The young lady with blue hair issued me my duds and I went to the changing room and changed. I went back to the registration area where, after about 30 minutes, Chad, the person registering and shepherding people said to go to Make up and Hair. I went downstairs to where about 40-50 people were standing in line waiting their turn. About 15 minutes into the wait a make-up artist walked by and cast her eyes upon us. Some she sent upstairs as being okay, and others she wanted someone to work on their hair or makeup. She wanted to cut my beard and we talked briefly about it; however, we were in disagreement. She asked that I take a seat in a chair in the long narrow hallway and wait for someone whose name I think was Chris to come by and judge the suitability of my beard. I sat at the end of the row of chairs just outside the makeup room.

Meanwhile, the line of extras for scene 71A slowly worked its way through the makeup and hair stops. While waiting, I was surrounded mostly by young female students awaiting their opportunity for a shot at the big time. I was also experiencing a costume malfunction with the zipper to my trousers, which I noticed earlier had a tendency to splay as though the fabric on this old suit were separating from the zipper. Finally, after 40 minutes Chris, who was very nice, came by and discussed the beard and looked it over. She said that I would need to be evaluated by yet another person named Kim who would be by shortly. Over the next hour or so, Chris came back about 6 or 7 times and looked at me each time, but I never saw Kim.

It became apparent that all of the scene 71A extras were out of the church basement and I was sitting among extras for the next funeral scene, all the time having to adjust my tie to cover my zipper as I sat so I would not be thought of as some sort of exhibitionist deviant. Finally I got to the point that I couldn't stand it any more. I went upstairs and discovered that all the extras in scene 71A had gone to the cemetery and I alone was left. At that point I decided to get dressed in my own clothes with a working zipper and turn in my costume to the lady with the blue hair.

Upon going to the wardrobe trailer I discovered that my new

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Profile: Arissa Prichard

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Arissa Prichard

On a steamy summer day in August 1978 Arissa Prichard took a typing test on a then state-of-the-art IBM Selectric typewriter and transcribed the notes she had just taken in shorthand. It was a test and she passed with flying colors. Her nimble typing and her precise transcribing skills won her a secretarial job in Institutional Research and Planning, and nearly 28 years later she's still there.

With her extensive experience in the IRP department, she's a treasure trove of information. She's has a knack for numbers and figures and statistical information of all kinds, and her willingness to learn as well as her attention to detail has helped her become an institutional research analyst.

Institutional Research and Planning provides a snapshot of the university at any given time, enrollment information and all kinds of configurations of statistical information, according to Prichard. The staff turns out reports, lots and lots of reports. And then there are Federal, State and Higher Education Policy Commission guidelines to meet. The HEPC requires sets of data files among other things.

"We're in charge of Federal reports, I-pads, required from institutions that get Federal funding," she says. "Information about enrollment, degrees, finance, we collect that. We do a lot of surveys that are published, such as the graduation rate survey. We're also in charge of the course evaluation process. We send out evaluation sheets to students, they complete them, we collect them and then the results are produced for faculty along with summations for the college and departments. This is done every semester and it is a huge printing job."

She's from Coalgrove, Ohio and was valedictorian of her class at Dawson Bryant High School. After graduation she attended Ashland Business College and took computer classes at Ohio University and studied basic programming. She proud that she helped her husband, William get his B.B.A. and later his R.N. Currently he's a psychiatric nurse at Lucasville Prison. The Prichards have a daughter, Leah Rebekah, who, even with three children under the age of 4, is managing to take nursing classes at Ashland Community & Technical College.

Prichard considers herself lucky that Leah and the grandchildren, Shawn, 4, Julee, 2, and Brielle, 6 months, live in Huntington, close enough for family visits.

A major influence on Prichard's life was her mother Collette, who died two years ago on her 84th birthday. "We were so close to her," Prichard says. "She was such a strong woman. She survived the depression and very hard times. Sometimes she didn't have enough to eat. My father, Clarence, was in WW II and he was a hero but he never talked

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Betty Cook

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father coupled with a personal surgery, Betty continued to work from home and by phone with myself and others to resolve problems and keep the massive amount of paperwork flowing to the appropriate entities."

South notes that she has served on the Classified Staff Council with Cook and "I know she brings relevant issues to the meetings and addresses all concerns regarding – policy and procedures. She does not withdraw from sensitive issues and is a dedicated staff representative concerning such matters."

The nomination concludes, "Betty is an irreplaceable asset to the College of Liberal Arts and the Classified Staff Council. I look forward to working with her for many years to come."

Cook was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet and a check for \$100 by President Stephen Kopp.

Smith Keynotes

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Marshall. The addresses were so well received that he was asked to return to campus in May 1998 as Marshall's commencement speaker, at which time he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

In addition to his biography on John Marshall, Smith has written 12 books, including a biography of U.S. Grant. He was nominated in 2002 as one of three Pulitzer prize finalists for *Grant*. His biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt will be published by Random House later this year.

Book on Med School Available at Reduced Rate

The newly released book, "7000 in the Bank...The Remarkable Story of Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, 1972-2005," by Robert B. Hayes, is now available to faculty and staff at the reduced price of \$23.

The book chronicles the dreams, struggles and perseverance of those responsible for the creation, development and growth of the School of Medicine. To purchase a copy, stop by room 3409 at the Medical School or contact Linda Holmes at ext. 11711. Checks should be made payable to UP&S.

Driver Training for State Employees Available Online

In connection with the requirements established by the Bureau of Risk and Insurance Management with regard to driver training, there are places available for everyone who needs to complete the Smith Drivers Training program online, according to Brian Carrico, Director of Safety and Health.

The training is available through the end of July for any new employee or anyone who has not yet completed the training. The test takes about 45 minutes to complete and can be done on any computer after the UserID and password are given.

Everyone who operates a state-owned vehicle or who has been reimbursed at least three times for business use of their personal vehicle must complete an online driver training course. Request for the training must be made in advance because the process takes a few days to get a participant set up in the system, according to Carrico.

For further information or to enroll, contact Linda Newman at ext. 62466 or e-mail chapma13@marshall.edu.

We Are...Marshall!

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